

DIRAUX NOTES
A Publication of the 13th District Auxiliary Office
JUNE 2003

FROM THE DIRECTOR

LCDR Kelly A. Boodell

ID CARDS: The DIRAUX Office has officially transitioned to our new electronic Identification card system. We have purchased and distributed to each DCP a swatch of red fabric. There is nothing special about this fabric, it is just a sample to demonstrate the shade of red we can use for consistency purposes. Feel free to cut a bit off to give to each flotilla so that they can start sending in their JPEGs. The guidance is included with this mailing and is also available on our D13 AUX web page. As of June 1st **NO** id cards will be processed the old way. We are officially out of stock of the old forms. All new member packages **MUST** have a floppy with the form & JPEG included. The same is true for requests for expired card and lost cards.

EASTERN AREA SAR: Please call Group Seattle (206) 217- 6001 as soon as you are called out on a SAR case. This number is the Operations Center and is manned 24 hours. Even where there is no COMMS capability, please take every effort to inform them of the case so that they can determine if they need to be engaged in its management. This has nothing to do with the temporary TONO process that LTJG Whitcomb described. GRU Seattle wants to know about any SAR activity taking place on lakes and waterways even if there are no COMMS capabilities. Remember, this is how we build a program justifying the valuable dollars spent and supporting much needed budget increases.

COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL EXAMINERS (CFVE) SCHOOL: We have been working closely with M (Marine Safety) and have been able to coordinate the first local CFVE school in the Seattle area, coming this summer. This will allow our district to have a core of trained Auxiliarists who are able to participate in this program. Normally, we are lucky to get just one quota, and that member must travel all the way to Virginia. We are very excited about this course, it will be open to both the Auxiliary and Active Duty in the PACAREA districts. If you are interested in participating in this program, please read carefully what I consider to be very important elements of the commitment you are undertaking. M has agreed to fund this course. If inspectors do not use the training and do inspections, they will not fund this again. So, We are asking that interested candidates do a bit of self-analysis and determine if your plate is too full to accept this responsibility. For more detailed information about this, ask our resident expert Ann Melton. Her e-mail is ann.melton@attbi.com Inspectors **MUST** be physically able to climb around vessels and into/out of small spaces. Most importantly, the temperament of the CFVE is vital. If the Examiner is unable to be socially

engaging, and appears too rigid or militant, fishermen will not be willing to participate in this program. Their participation is voluntary and critical to saving lives. This is a great and exciting opportunity! Please send in your STTR in the normal manner. As Auxiliarists you will work directly with the MSO (marine Safety office) and are responsible to MSO. It is not like the Recreational program where Auxiliary trains and signs you off on your 5 exams. A certificate of completion of the Commercial fishing Vessel School is not the endorsement to start vessel exams without an accompanying MSO person until that MSO is comfortable with your exams.

ODU's: The Operational Dress Uniform (ODU's): I have been hearing comments about Auxiliarists desiring to wear this uniform. This is the blue camouflage uniform. These uniforms ARE NOT authorized for wear by Auxiliarists and will NOT be authorized for wear until the District Commander approves their wear. These have a very militant appearance. The Auxiliary is not a military force, it is my feeling that these uniforms will confuse the public and greatly setback very important advances that the Auxiliary has made in certain program areas.

FROM OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

CWO4 Paul Bellona

Buoy 13: Commodore Neiderhiser appointed a new DSO-PB on May 30. He is Charles Lindenberg, 56 Tarte Rd., Friday Harbor, WA 98250-7006, at cwlindenberg@interisland.net. Charles is now gathering articles and information for the Buoy 13. Articles are due to him by 16 June 2003.

EXCOM: Commodore Neiderhiser announced that the District Executive Committee will be meeting in mid July. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your respective RCO via the chain of communication.

2003 Fly-In: This year it is being held at Group Port Angeles on 20-22 JUN for all pilots and air observers. This workshop is mandatory for AUXAIR personnel to maintain their certifications in 2003. Copies of orders & the schedule of events will be coming out in the mail and I will be hand carrying the original orders with me to hand out at the Fly-In. Facilities will be flying into the Air Station, but must get PPRs before they fly in (contact Mel Fay about this).

QE Sessions: Flotilla's/Divisions desiring QE Sessions besides the Pre-scheduled QE Sessions should try to schedule these request to the Regional QE at least 30 days prior to the desired QE Session Date. These request are scheduled by the SO-MT or FSO-MT by submitting a QE Session Request form to DIRAUX via the Regional QE. DIRAUX will publish the QE Session Date in DIRAUX Notes and on the D13 Web Site if the date is known in a timely fashion. The host Flotilla or Division will be responsible for the overall coordination of the session.

Facility Inspections & Offer For Use Forms: Keep these forms coming into DIRAUX if you plan on using your vessel, plane, radio as a CG Auxiliary Facility. Once they are approved and entered into AUXDATA, you have 1 year (+45 days) before you must get another inspection. Please make sure that you double check your forms to ensure they are complete before you send them in, so we will not have to send them back. Also please put your Division/Flotilla # by your Member #, so we can find your facility easier in AUXDATA.

POMS: I will be training Group North Bend on POMS again on 18 JUN. Hopefully, Group North Bend will be up and running POMS "live" by 1 JUL 03. Until then, patrol orders must be issued the old way. **Note:** *FINCEN will issue paper checks (vice direct deposits) for reimbursements from 23 May 2003 to 17 June 2003 due to transitioning to a new financial system.*

2003 Operations Workshop: Everyone participating in Surface Operations and the Marine Safety Program should have attended this workshop. If you haven't, you will not be eligible to receive patrol orders or credit for any mission during the "uncertified" period. Failure to comply by the deadline of 1 JUN 03 will be indicated as a "not qualified" status in the AUXDATA Individual or Unit Certification Report in the training module. Contact your Operations Officer if you still require this workshop.

ISAR: The D13 ISAR Competition will be held at Station Coos Bay on 26-27 JUL 2003 this year to get ready for the International SAR Competition in St John's Newfoundland. **Other Notes:** **International SAR Competition** between the U. S. Auxiliary and the Canadian Auxiliary will be held on 26-27 SEP in St. John's Newfoundland, with travel days on 25 and 28 SEP. We are putting word out to all D13 Auxiliarists that we will be sending a team to this competition and that COMDT (ocx) will be funding teams from D13 and 5 other Districts to compete. A committee (Bill Houser, Frank Ramer, Katie Zundel, Chuck Olson) will meet on a regular basis. Our objective is to ensure that D13 puts the best team together for this competition, as well as getting the most operational training and general readiness for our membership to get them ready to meet any operational mission that the Coast Guard needs assistance with. The D13 Team will be made up of 4 members. Team events will include: Search and Rescue Planning, On-Water SAREX, SAR Pump, Heaving Line 1, Heaving Line 2, and a Mystery Event. Team events for the International Team include: Chart Work, Marlinspike, Water Rescue, Heaving Line 3, and a Mystery Event. Not only are we promoting **ISAR**, but also the **CG Aux Operational Excellence Program** since it will be used as a foundation for the ISAR competition at all levels and will reward those who work so hard to hone their skills. Since the ISAR competition and the Operational Excellence judging will involve QE's, it is also a great opportunity for boat crew candidates to qualify. To provide additional accomplishments, we also encourage the use of this time to re-certify early, especially for the 5th year certification and to get new members involved in the boat crew program. Additional information will be coming out on the D13 Web Site, DIRAUXNOTES and from the DCP's/DSO-OPs.

Operational Excellence Program: This is an great opportunity for all boat crews to improve their proficiency and skills through a series of evaluated scenarios and if they score high enough, to receive an "E" for excellence Decal/Ribbon. The E-decal is issued to the Coxswain to be placed on the Coxswain's facility (may be displayed for the time remaining in the calendar year earned, plus the next full calendar year). The Coxswain/Team receives a ribbon and may be worn until it is discontinued. It is an award to those who demonstrate a high level of proficiency in boat crew skills, foster teamwork, and encourage fellowship with other operational members. The Operational Excellence Program tasks include Search Planning, Search Execution, Pump Drill, Communications, Complete the normal Currency Maintenance Tasks: Pre-Underway Check off, MOB Drill, Towing Drill. A total of 100 points is possible and a score of 90 is required for the award. This is a great way to hone your underway skills (coxswain and crew), to get ready for your operational missions with the Coast Guard!

FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER

SK1 Nelson Fritz

Replacement: Good day all. This will be my official last entry in the DRAUX notes as my 4 year tour is up. By the time you read this, I will have transferred to the USCGC MIDGETT. It has been great working with all of you although I haven't had the opportunity to meet all of you. My replacement will be SK1 Holly Boehme who is coming from Air Station Cape Cod, MA. She has some experience in the travel field and will take good care of all of you. She's due to arrive the week of 12 June.

FROM THE COMPUTER SECTION

Vacant

AUXDATA ON LINE: Our new computer is "on line." It is a growing, changing, vitally important tool. We are all learning to use it, together. The OSC programmers in Martinsburg, West Virginia are correcting glitches and adjusting the system. For example, Auxiliary transfers between districts are entered at the CH DIRAUX office, with special help from the Martinsburg staff. The learning curve and period of adjustment will be quicker, and much better organized, if we remember to use the Auxiliary Information System (IS) chain. If everyone with a question, suggestion, or improvement contacts the FSO-IS first, before contacting the SO-IS, or the DSO-IS, or this DIRAUX office, we'll make better progress. We do have the chance to develop a very responsive, user friendly, tool by working together as an organization.

FROM THE MEMBER STATUS SECTION

Ms. Shirley Blanchett

MEMBERSHIP SERVICE AWARDS: In order to facilitate the issue of the July Membership Service Awards all flotillas need to send in the Auxiliary ID card forms and floppy with member pictures of all Auxiliarists who have a July 1998 base enrollment date. These pictures and forms must reach the DIRAUX office by the end of June so that the new ID cards can be included with the 5 year Membership Service awards that will be going out in July. Please send these forms and floppy disk to the DIRAUX office, attention: Shirley

COMPUTER SECTION POINT OF CONTACT): Shirley Blanchett, E-Mail: sblanchett@pacnorwest.uscg.mil, or telephone # 1-800-982-8813 Ext. 7088 or # (206) 220-7088 is the designated Computer Section POC. Please use E-Mail to resolve problems whenever possible, however, please remember to utilize the chain of communications. E-Mail messages can be printed, prioritized, and researched easily. Telephone calls may be routed to voice mail, and recorded calls usually leave out some of the essential information. I'll try to solve problems, in the AUXDATA and in the Member Status sections just as soon as possible. I appreciate your understanding and patience as I take on the added responsibilities from the Computer Section. Together with DIRAUX's volunteer force, I know we will be able to meet the Auxiliary's needs.

NEW ENROLLMENT APPLICATIONS: When submitting New Enrollment applications please make sure you have included the New Member examination answer sheet. ***Omission of the exam answer sheet will cause a significant delay in processing the application.*** Also, please make sure the, "Prospective Member Interview Record" is also included with the enrollment package. After new enrollment applications have been received in the DIRAUX offices we are dedicated to processing them within a *one-week* turnaround. If information is omitted, it will take longer. When the new enrollment has been processed the completed Certificate, ID card, and Handbook are now being sent out *immediately*.

NEW ENROLLMENTS continued: The most current Enrollment Application form is the ANSC 7001 (7-99). Any enrollment form that was used prior to this form can still be used, but most do not have a place on them to record Basic Boating Courses. If you use an enrollment form that does not have a place to record a Basic Boating Course you will need to indicate somewhere on the enrollment application if the applicant has taken a Basic Boating Course within the last two years. If you do not indicate this information somewhere on the application the applicant will be given the status of Initially Qualified. Be sure to include the date the applicant took the course. On the current form you can record the course where it is written, "BOATING COURSE COMPLETED: DATE: _____"